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Richmond Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

for 1954

F. W. GAVIN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)

Jamson & Co., Printers, Richmond. Phone 3378.

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Richmond Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1954. The report follows the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health. The vital statistics may be considered satisfactory; the resident population as estimated by the Registrar General is 28,750, which shows an increase of 750 on that for mid-year 1953. Both the birth and death rates have been multiplied by the Comparability Factors supplied by the Registrar General, and the birth rate at 22.63 comparing with 25.35 in 1953 is higher than that for England and Wales at 15.20; and the death rate at 11.37 compared with 10.97 for 1953 is very similar to the rate for England and Wales at 11.30.

There were 15 deaths of infants under 1 year of age and 8 of these were under 4 weeks of age; the infantile mortality rate at 33.19, although lower than that for 1953, is again higher than that for England and Wales at 25.50.

It is gratifying to note that there were no maternal deaths during 1954; the last such death occurred in the district in 1951.

The main cause of death was again heart disease (42 deaths) followed by Cancer (24 deaths) and Vascular diseases of the nervous system (16 deaths). There was 1 death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis—2 such in 1953.

Notifications of infectious diseases were lower than in 1953, Chicken Pox heading the list with 53 cases, closely followed by Pneumonia, 52 cases with 6 deaths, and 10 notifications of this disease in the month of May and 19 in the winter months; on the other hand there were no cases of Pneumonia in September and November. Measles were much less prevalent than in 1953 and Whooping Cough showed rather a higher incidence during the autumn months of 1954. All 19 cases of Malaria occurred in military personnel returned from overseas service. Only one case of Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) in a soldier during September stationed at Catterick Camp and it was considered likely that he had been infected outside this area; he was, I understand, discharged from the Army with slight residual disability.

In connection with two cases of food poisoning, one a child at Catterick Village, the other a soldier at Catterick Camp, vigorous measures against rodents and flies were undertaken.

All four cases of Sonne Dysentery were soldiers at Catterick Camp, and in this connection the all important washing of hands before handling foodstuffs was impressed on all concerned.

The weather records for 1954 showed one of the wettest and most sunless years recorded.

National Assistance Act, Section 47. No court action was necessary during the year.

Water Supplies. Details of samples taken and results will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Drainage and Sewerage. The details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Housing. Statistical tables will also be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

F. W. GAVIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:
F. W. GAVIN, MD, MB, ChB, DPH.

Sanitary Inspector:
S. V. NEEDHAM, CRSI, CSIB, DRIPHH.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector: O. H. Blades.

General Statistics:

Area of district in acres	78,681
Resident Population	28,750
Number of inhabited houses	2,903
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1954 ...	£134,528
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£550/-/-
Rate in the £ levied at 1st April, 1954 ...	9/3

Vital Statistics

Births. The number of live births registered during the year was 452, against 467 in 1953. The birth rate comparison shows that the rate for the district is again higher than the rate for England and Wales.

The number of still births registered during the year was 11 as against 6 for 1953, the rate being slightly higher than that for England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons

Live Births per 1,000 population.
Still births per 1,000 total live and still births.

	Live Births	Still Births
Richmond Rural District, 1954 ...	15.72	23.76
Richmond Rural District, 1953 ...	16.68	12.68
England and Wales, 1954 ...	15.20	23.40

Analysis of Births

	1953		1954	
Live Births:—	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	228	221	231	211
Illegitimate	10	8	7	3
Totals	238	229	238	214
Still Births:—	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	Nil	6	3	8
Illegitimate	Nil	—	—	—
Totals	Nil	6	3	8

Deaths. Maternal Mortality. During 1954 there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequense of, childbirth in the District.

Maternal Mortality Rate Comparisons per 1,000 Total Births

Richmond Rural District, 1954 ...	0.00
Richmond Rural District, 1953 ...	0.00
England and Wales, 1954	0.60

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under one year) who died during the year was 15, as against 17 in 1953, the Rate being again higher than that for England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons per 1,000 Live Births

Richmond Rural District, 1953 ...	36.40
Richmond Rural District, 1954 ...	33.19
England and Wales, 1954	25.50

Deaths from All Causes. During the year 1954 there were 137 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 147 in 1953. The death rate is again very favourable compared with that for England and Wales, and it is noted that 46 deaths were in the 55/75, and 51 in the over 75 years of age groups; these may be compared with 45 in the first and 54 in the second age group for 1953.

Death Rates Comparison, Death Rate per 1,000 Population

Richmond Rural District, 1953 ...	5.25
Richmond Rural District, 1954 ...	4.76
England and Wales, 1954	11.30

Causes of All Deaths

	1954 Sexes M	F
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	6
Leukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	4
Coronary disease, angina	14	4
Hypertension with heart disease	—	2
Other heart disease	13	9
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	6
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—
All other accidents	3	1
Suicide	1	—
Totals	90	47

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes, Rates and Comparisons with Previous Year

	Per 1,000 Population 1953 No.	Rate	1954 No.	Rate
Cancer	16	.57	24	.84
Heart Disease	47	1.68	42	1.46
Respiratory Disease (not T/B) ...	14	.50	14	.49
T/B—Pulmonary	2	.07	1	.03
T/B—Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—
Other circulatory disease	3	.11	3	.10
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	.57	16	.56
Totals	98	3.50	100	3.48

Ages at Death from All Causes and Comparisons with 1953

	1953	1954
Under 1 year	17	15
From 1 to 25 years	15	9
From 25 to 55 years	16	16
From 55 to 65 years	15	15
From 65 to 75 years	30	31
Over 75 years	54	51
Totals	147	137

Infectious Diseases — Comparisons with 1953

	1953 No. of Cases	1954 No. of Cases
Scarlet Fever	25	16
Measles	241	49
Acute Pneumonia	12	52
Chicken Pox	28	53
Erysipelas	4	2
Whooping Cough	30	41
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	3
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	2	1
Dysentery	5	4
Malaria	4	19
Encephalitis (Post Infectious) ...	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	1
German Measles	3	27
Food Poisoning	6	2
Paratyphoid	1	1
Totals	368	271

TUBERCULOSIS

In 1954 there were 20 notifications of Tuberculosis during the year; the analysis of these and the deaths from the same cause during the year are given below.

Analysis of Notifications of Tuberculosis

Pulmonary—9 Males. Ages: 5, 7, 3, 13, 16. 29, 35, 62, 68.

Pulmonary— 7 Females. Ages: 1, 3, 6, 14, 29, 67, 25.

Non-Pulmonary—Males. Nil.

Non-Pulmonary—4 Females. Ages: 19, 25, 33, 64.

Deaths from Tuberculosis

Pulmonary—1 Male. Age: 53.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS

	Under 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.
Vaccinations	302	261
Immunisations	258	891

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

Section 22	Care of Mother and Young Children.
Section 23	Domiciliary Midwifery.
Section 24	Health Visiting.
Section 25	Home Nursing.

Seven District Nurse/Midwives and one full time Health Visitor, employed by the North Riding County Council, carry out the duties required by the above four Sections of the Act in the District. As these nurses' districts border on adjacent authorities, accurate figures of their nursing visits in the Richmond Rural District are not available, but their total figures of visits paid are as follows:—

	1953	1954
Domiciliary Midwifery ...	4393	3581
Health Visiting	5110	7427
Home Nursing	5617	3668

The majority refer to Richmond Rural District.

There are four Infant Welfare Centres in the District, at Catterick Camp, Catterick Village, Middleton Tyas and Scorton. The Catterick Camp Centre, which has weekly sessions, is attended by a lady Doctor employed by the County Council, whilst the other three are attended by local medical practioners, Catterick Village now having fortnightly sessions, Middleton Tyas and Scorton holding monthly sessions.

Total Number of Attendances of Children at Infant Welfare Centres

	1953	1954
Catterick Camp ...	2780	2211
Catterick Village ...	753	608
Scorton	233	194
Middleton Tyas ...	482	350
Totals	4248	3363

All the Centres are well attended by mothers and their children, particularly at the Catterick Camp Centre, where the greatest concentration of population in the District occurs.

Section 27. Ambulance Service. From the 1st January to 4th July 1954 this service was provided by the North Riding County Council by arrangement with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who had three vehicles stationed at Richmond and, with the Hospital Car Service, under the jurisdiction of the Women's Voluntary Service. These two services covered the Richmond Borough and the Rural Districts of Richmond, Croft, Startforth and Reeth.

From the 5th July 1954 to the end of the year the service for the same areas was provided by the County Council from the new Ambulance Station at Richmond, which became

operational on 5th July with a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and five Driver/Attendants, and with the part-time assistance of the Hospital Car Service.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care. The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community. Free milk is provided for Tuberculous persons, on the authority of the Chest Physician.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council, and during 1954 36 cases received service, the analysis and comparison with the previous year being as follows:—

1953	1954		1953	1954
No. of Cases			No. of Hours	
11	5	Sickness of Housewife ...	1004	241
18	17	Domiciliary Confinement ...	1084	882½
8	11	Chronic Sick	3004	4790½
—	3	T.B.	—	1659½
37	36		5092	7573½

Section 51. Mental Health. There are no Mental Health Committees in the District.

Dental Services. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47. No cases removed during the year.

The remainder of this report has been compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Needham, and I now place on record my thanks to him and his staff, and my clerical staff, for their constant help and conscientious work throughout the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies:

(a) The Council's Gandale system supplies the villages of Appleton (part), Bolton-on-Swale, Brompton-on Swale, Brough, Catterick, Colburn (part), Ellerton-on-Swale, North Cowton, Scorton, Scotton, and Tunstall.

Colburn is augmented by the W.D. supply, both supplies being chlorinated.

(b) The Council's separate systems supply the villages of Aldbrough St. John, Caldwell, Dalton, Downholme, East Layton, West Layton, Eppleby, Gayles, Gilling (part), Hudswell and Sleegill, Kirby Hill, Melsonby, Newsham, Ravensworth, Skeeby, Whashton.

Hudswell and Sleegill are augmented by the W.D. and Richmond Corporation respectively. Aldbrough St. John is a chlorinated supply.

(c) Private piped supplies feed Appleton (part), Aske, Gilling (part), Marske, Middleton Tyas (part), St. Martin, and Hipswell (W.D.).

(d) Wells and Springs supply Carkin & Forcett; Moulton, New Forest, Stainton, Stanwick, Uckerby, and Walburn. These latter, with the exception of Moulton, are isolated properties.

Bacteriological Examinations of the Council's piped supplies numbered twenty-one during the year. Particulars and results of these are set out in Table One appended to the report.

Examinations of Private supplies numbered 4 during the year, the following being particulars and results:—

System	Date of Sample	No. of Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml. (probable)	Class
Marske ...	3.8.54	90.	Unsatisfactory
St. Martins ...	9.8.54	3.	Suspicious
St. Martins (2)	9.8.54	0.	Satisfactory
West Layton	6.8.54	35.	Unsatisfactory

Degrees of Hardness and Plumbo Solvency are the same as for 1953.

The "Crumma" or N.E. Regional Scheme is progressing and should be available for the Region and the augmentation of the Gandale System by late 1955 or early 1956.

DRAINAGE

Parts of the District still requiring Sewerage Systems are the same as for 1953, with the exception of Hudswell and Newsham. The following Additions and Extensions were carried out during the year:—

Colburn Housing Site.
Catterick Housing Site.
Hipswell Housing Site.
Melsonby Housing Site.

The Sewerage and Disposal Systems at Hudswell is proceeding, and at Newsham has been completed.

Approval has been given for Sewerage and Disposal Schemes at Aldbrough St. John, Gilling, and North Cowton; and for Disposal Works at Catterick.

It is strongly recommended that the villages of Tunstall, Moulton and Ravensworth be provided with Sewerage schemes as early as possible.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Particulars of work carried out under this Act are set out in Table Two appended to the Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ETC.

Seven premises were disinfected during the year following cases of infectious disease.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Nine Licences to station caravans were issued during the year. In addition, one licence in respect of a wooden Bungalow was granted.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

There are two Factories in the District for which the Council is responsible for Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation and Drainage of Floors; and 32 for which the Council is responsible for Sanitary Conveniences. Inspections are made from to time as circumstances permit.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

General Sanitation:—	
Water Supply	35
Drainage	144
Stables and Piggeries	21
Offensive Trades	1
Fried Fish Shops	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	3
Factories	6
Bakehouses	3
Public Conveniences	11
Licensed Premises	39
Refuse Disposal	9
Rodent Control	24
Miscellaneous Visits	124
	424
Infectious Diseases:—	
Enquiries re Cases	7
Visits re Disinfection	7
Miscellaneous Visits	6
	20

NOTICES — PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

	Informal	Formal
Insanitary Houses due to defects ...	6	3
Drainage, Defective Tanks, etc. ...	9	2
Blocked Water Course	1	—
Insanitary Condition—keeping animals ...	2	—
Fractured Water Main	1	—
Deposits of Refuse	8	—
Deposits of Maggots (Hide Lorries) ...	—	1
Provision of Sanitary Accommodation ...	—	1
	27	7

SECTION D.

HOUSING

Overcrowding:—

No action in respect of overcrowding was taken during the year.

Rural Housing Survey:—

Details of the houses surveyed to 31st March, 1955, are as follows:—

	Categories:				
No. Surveyed	1	2	3	4*	5
1,213	190	434	445	74	144

***Note**—Figures in this column include houses also accounted for in columns 2, 3, and 5.

Categories:—

1. Satisfactory in all respects.
2. Minor defects.
3. Repairs or structural alterations.
4. Suitable for improvement.
5. Unfit.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Housing:—

	Visits
Under Public Health Acts	43
Under Housing Acts	92
Filthy Premises	2
Miscellaneous	22

MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATISTICAL TABLE

1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:—

(1)	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	222
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	254
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	209
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	209
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	33
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	142

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	4

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(2). Proceedings under Public Health Act:—

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(3) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—
(c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council	23

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	9
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooom having been rendered fit	—

Temporary Dwellings:—

There are remaining the following hutments in the District, the occupants of which will be rehoused as houses become available, after which the huts will be demolished and removed:—

R.E.M.E. Site, Scorton	...	...	12
No. 3 Site, Bolton-on-Swale	...	...	13
No. 4 Site, Bolton-on-Swale	...	...	3

No. 2 Site at Scorton has been totally cleared during the year, house erections have taken their place.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Unsound Food:—

The following items of food were examined during the year and condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Quantity		Description
12 15/16 lbs.	...	Cooked Bacon.
56 lbs.	...	Hind Quarter Beef.
15 lbs.	...	Liver.
144 lbs.	...	Veal & Ham Loaf.
112 lbs.	...	Danish Butter.
112 lbs.	...	Smoked Haddock
15 lbs.	...	Boiled Ham.
1 Tin	...	Boiled Ham.
14 lbs.	...	Fish.
23 7/16 lbs.	...	Ham.
6 lbs.	...	Tongue.

Slaughter of Animals Acts:—

Seven licences were granted during the year to persons for the Slaughter of Animals.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Food Premises and Food Inspection:—

Visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	156
Visits to Butchers	...	...	7
Visits to Food Preparing Premises		...	11
Visits to Greengrocers	...	...	6
Visits to Restaurants	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	5

Inspection of Meat:—

Details of the animals slaughtered and inspected during the period 5th July, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, are as follows:—

Pigs	Sheep	Lambs	Calves	Beasts
211	144	143	1	126

Food and Drugs Act:—

Three premises were registered during the year for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

TABLE I.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS — COUNCIL WATER SUPPLIES

System	Date of Sample	Classification			
		Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
		Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.			
Aldbrough St. John ...	1/9/54				180 †
Caldwell	1/9/54				180 †
Dalton	21/7/54				180 †
Downholme	3/8/54		1		
East Layton	6/8/54				25
Eppleby	1/9/54		1		
Gandale:—					
Brompton-on-Swale ...	21/6/54			5	
Scorton	21/6/54		1		
Walkerville	9/8/54	0			
Tunstall	19/5/54			3	
Tunstall	9/8/54	0			
Gayles	21/7/54			8	
Gayles	29/7/54		2		
Hudswell	3/8/54				50
Kirby Hill	21/7/54				180 †
Kirby Hill	29/7/54				25
Kirby Hill	1/9/54				50
Newsham	21/7/54				180 †
Ravensworth	6/8/54				25
Sleegill	3/8/54	0			
Whashton	6/8/54				25

TABLE II.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 Months ended 31st March, 1955

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	All other (incl. business premises) (3)	Total (4)	Agricultural (5)
I. Total number of properties in District	14	2576	327	2917*	393
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	—	35	9	44	18
(b) Survey under the Act	14	444	60	518	181
(c) Otherwise	—	507	23	530	—
III. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats—Minor ...	11	66	23	100	60
Major ...	2	—	—	2	19
(b) Mice—Minor ...	—	1	5	6	9
Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
IV. Number of infested properties treated by the Council	13	46	24	83	77
V. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	30	46	30	106	170
VI. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ...	—	8	1	9	—

Notes

* Does not include W.D. properties at Catterick Camp.

(a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll.

(b) Council houses are entered in Column (2).

(c) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, are regarded as business premises and entered in Column (3). Where the dwelling and business parts of premises are in separate occupation, separate entries are made in Columns (2) and (3).

(d) For the purpose of completing Sections II., III. and IV., each property is entered **once only** in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.